
ASPIRA, Inc.
of New Jersey



Leadership Through Education

The Mission of ASPIRA

Our mission is the educational and leadership development of Puerto Rican and Latino youth so that they become empowered individuals who make significant contributions to the Puerto Rican and Latino community, in particular, and society in general.

ASPIRA, INC. OF NEW JERSEY

Executive Office

390 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07104

Telephone: 201-484-7554 • Fax: 201-484-0184

Fernando Fuentes, Executive Director

Essex County Center

ASPIRA Essex County Center

390 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07104

Telephone: 201-484-7554 • Fax: 201-484-0184

Camden County Center

ASPIRA Camden County Center

Camden County College/Glassboro State College

200 N. Broadway Street, Office #419, Camden, NJ 08102

Telephone: 609-338-1817, Ext. 113

Mercer County Center

ASPIRA Mercer County Center

44 Cuyler Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08609

Telephone: 609-392-1144

Passaic County Center

ASPIRA Passaic County Center

136 Washington Street, Paterson, NJ 07505

Telephone: 201-279-3110

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Margaret Rosario-Rivera
Chairperson

Hector Alamo

Carlos J. Alma

Dennis Alvarado

Gene Calderon

Elvin J. Crespo, Esq.

Agustin Cruz

Samuel Delgado

Betty Ayala-McGovern

Yolanda Morales

Elsa Nuñez-Wormack, Ph.D.

Walter A. Oliveras, Esq.

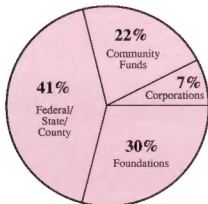
Richard Ramirez, CIH

Evelyn Seda Lequerica, M.D.

Delia Sosa

Noemi Valazquez

PRIVATE GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS



FOUNDATIONS

Allstate Foundation
Becton Dickinson Foundation
Mary Owen Borden Memorial Foundation
Campbell Soup Foundation
Max & Dora Cooper Family Foundation
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Ford Foundation
Leighton & Carin Laughlin Trust
Merck Company Foundation
Jay R. Monroe Memorial Foundation
Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc. Foundation
National Starch and Chemical Foundation, Inc.
Prudential Foundation
Roxitucus Fund
Subaru of America Foundation
Turrell Fund
Victoria Foundation

CORPORATIONS

Adolph Coors Co.
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
AT&T
Bell Communications Research
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of New Jersey
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
Broad National Bank
Bunbury Company, Inc.
Ciba-Geigy
City National Bank
Crum & Forster
Educational Testing Services
Edwards & Kelcey
First Fidelity Bank
Goya Foods, Inc.
Hoechst-Celanese
Hoffmann-La Roche
Howard Savings Bank
Howmedica
IBM
Jersey Central Power & Light
Johnson & Johnson
Lenox, Inc.
Matsushita Electric Corporation of America
Merrill Lynch
Midlantic National Bank
Mutual Benefit Life
Nabisco
National Westminster Bank of New Jersey
New Jersey Bell
Public Service Electric & Gas
R.H. Macy & Co., Inc.
Sandoz Inc.
SONY Corporation
Supermarkets General Corporation
United Parcel Service
Warner Lambert
WNWK

WHAT IS ASPIRA?

Aspira was created in 1961. It was organized by a group of people who were concerned about the educational opportunities being offered to Puerto Ricans. Today, Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey is but one of the various Aspira agencies throughout the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Some of the fundamental objectives that Aspira has set for itself are:

- to promote social change in the Puerto Rican-Latino Community,
- to help develop leadership skills in Puerto Rican-Latino youth,
- to provide guidance and orientation on educational and career opportunities,
- to address the needs of the Puerto Rican-Latino community.

Aspira's fundamental goal is to improve the social and economic situation of Puerto Ricans and other Latinos in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Although founded to aid the cause of Puerto Ricans and Latinos, Aspira has never refused services to anyone needing them. As a result, many other ethnic and national groups have received aid from Aspira. In New Jersey, 40 per cent of those students served at the Essex Center are black and/or non-Hispanic.

Aspira achieves its objectives and nears its goals through its programs. The Math and Science Program is a perfect example of the type of program that helps Aspira to help its clientele and community.

WHAT DOES ASPIRA'S SYMBOL SIGNIFY?

Aspira's symbol is the piliirre, a small, fragile tropical bird found in Puerto Rico. The piliirre is known for its agility and rapid flight, and for its ability to outsmart and lure out larger birds, such as the hawk.

There is a saying on the island that "a cada guaraguao le llega su piliirre."

Aspira believes that the piliirre is a fitting symbol for young, aspiring students. Aspirantes gain the confidence of the piliirre by acquiring knowledge and developing their leadership and problem-solving skills. They then organize groups to bring about change which is beneficial to the community.

THE ASPIRA PROCESS

During the many years that Aspira has existed, Aspirantes have experienced over and over again, something that has been called "The Aspira Process." Aspirantes go through the Aspira Process by becoming actively involved in Aspira programs and by acquiring knowledge and skills. The process involves the three concepts of Identity, Investigation and Action.

Identity is the process of becoming aware of your cultural, racial and ethnic background and history. This is achieved by finding out, understanding and experiencing who you are.

Investigation is the process of finding out about yourself and about the world around you. The Aspirante comes to learn that teachers and parents, as well as peers, and others can help in this research if we question and listen properly.

Action is the process of putting the knowledge and skills acquired to use for the benefit of your community. This is done by becoming involved in activities that benefit your community.

The Aspira Process is a continuous process. At first, you may have to make a conscious effort to identify, investigate and act. Later on, you will go through the process automatically as you mature.

ASPIRA INC. OF NEW JERSEY
390 BROAD STREET 3RD. FLOOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104
TEL. 484-7554

=====

DATOS

=====

- ♦ ASPIRA INC. DE NEW JERSEY se estableció en Newark en el año 1968 (más de 20 años atrás).
- ♦ ASPIRA promueve el liderato a través de la educación.
- ♦ ASPIRA ofrece orientación y consejería vocacional, ubicación en colegios o universidades y ayuda para obtener medios económicos para estudiar.
- ♦ ASPIRA ofrece adiestramientos sobre liderato a nuestra juventud y enfatiza una auto-imagen positiva, el establecimiento de metas, orgullo por la cultura y otros.
- ♦ ASPIRA tiene un historial de éxito en las áreas de motivar y ubicar a nuestra juventud hispana en programas de educación post-secundaria.
- ♦ ASPIRA está considerada como la organización más efectiva dentro de la comunidad hispana.
- ♦ NUESTRA COMUNIDAD necesita más líderes y profesionales hispanos que puedan entender e identificarse con nuestros problemas y preocupaciones.
- ♦ NUESTRA COMUNIDAD necesita continuar produciendo más modelos profesionales para nuestros niños.
- ♦ NUESTRA COMUNIDAD necesita a Aspira para motivar y estimular a nuestros jóvenes hispanos a continuar en la escuela y obtener una educación post-secundaria.

ASPIRA NECESITA TU AYUDA PARA CONTINUAR SU MISION DE
DESARROLLAR LOS LIDERES DEL MAÑANA. POR FAVOR
CONTRIBUYE A CONVERTIR NUESTROS SUEÑOS EN REALIDAD.

THE STORY OF ASPIRA



The ASPIRA Movement

It all began in 1961, in New York City, when a group of Latino educators saw the need to alleviate the alarming dropout rate among Puerto Ricans in the state.

Under the leadership of Dr. Antonia Pantoja, ASPIRA was formed to encourage and promote education and leadership development among Latino youth. It was patterned after her belief that the development of people, singularly or in groups, must be done holistically. Initially a project under the Puerto Rican-Hispanic Forum, ASPIRA became its own organization by 1965.

Today ASPIRA organizations, known as ASSOCIATES, exist in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Florida and Connecticut. All of these Associates form the ASPIRA Association, Inc. The ASPIRA Association National Office is based in Washington, D.C.

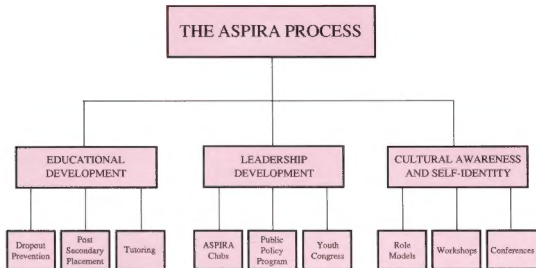
ASPIRA Inc. of New Jersey

ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey is a community-based organization providing counseling and leadership development programs to Puerto Ricans/Latinos and other minority youth in urban centers throughout the state.

Since its foundation in 1968, ASPIRA has helped over 30,000 low-income minority youths complete high school and go on to post-secondary education.

ASPIRA, INC. of New Jersey has grown tremendously from a small organization serving students from the Greater Newark area in 1985, to a statewide agency serving students from seventeen high schools throughout the Camden, Hudson, Essex, Passaic and Mercer Counties.

THE ASPIRA PROCESS



GOALS FOR ALL ASPIRA PROGRAMS

1. Engender a value for education
2. Engender a value for the important role of a viable Puerto Rican/Latino community through awareness and participation
3. Strengthening a positive self-identity
4. Develop leadership skills
5. Encourage cultural awareness and participation
6. Develop parent awareness of educational programs and policies that affect their children

1990-91 – A SUMMARY



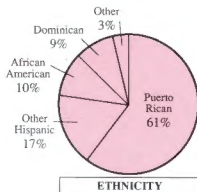
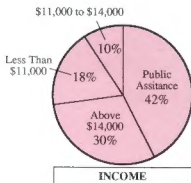
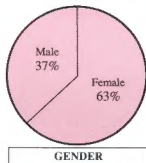
During the 1990-91 school year, ASPIRA provided direct and individualized services – what ASPIRA calls its "active caseload" – to 1,779 students.

1,543 additional students received partial services, which ranged from referrals to participation in any of the many field trips, seminars, workshops and conferences provided by ASPIRA throughout the year.

In general, ASPIRA served 3,322 students.



STUDENTS' PROFILE



ASPIRA PROGRAMS

Leadership Development Program

Leadership Development begins at the school level through a network of democratically organized and student operated clubs. The ASPIRA Clubs promote the ideals of community service and citizenship; provide students with an organizational structure from which they can learn effective problem-solving methods; plan visits to local colleges; organize field trips; conduct fund-raisers to raise money; and hold workshops on topics of concern to them.

Early Intervention Program

The ASPIRA Early Intervention Program works to prevent high dropout rates by targeting students at the middle school level. Counselors prevent students from dropping out by encouraging them to seek tutoring and attend pre-college programs as well as keeping them involved in ASPIRA activities.

Math and Science Program

The ASPIRA Math and Science Program focuses on developing students' skills in math and science by providing tutorial services on a daily basis. Math and science conferences are organized to make students aware of educational and career opportunities in these fields.

Counseling Program

ASPIRA counselors make students aware of the opportunities that are available to them in higher education through counseling, workshops, seminars and educational conferences.

Talent Search Program

The Talent Search Program offers a wide range of services that assist youth in planning their education and career development. This program provides services to low income, first generation college students. Focus is placed on college placement, leadership development, and assisting students who have dropped out of high school and/or college in obtaining their GED and/or completing their higher education.



Cultural Awareness

ASPIRA believes that young people cannot succeed unless they are aware and proud of their cultural heritage. To accomplish this, ASPIRA sponsors many activities during the year to expose students to their own culture. Students attend conferences and field trips, and participate in the ASPIRA Dance Troupe, which performs folkloric dances at schools, colleges, and community centers around the state.

National Health Careers Program

The ASPIRA National Health Careers Program is coordinated by the National Office and implemented through the offices of ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey. Its primary objective is to increase the number of Latino and other minority youth entering health profession schools. The program has two components, the pre-health professions unit and the health professions unit.

Public Policy Leadership Program

The ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program is coordinated by the ASPIRA National Office and implemented through the offices of ASPIRA, Inc. of New Jersey. The program works with Latino high school students to help them learn about the process of public policy formulation and to develop leadership skills that will facilitate their entry into the public policy arena on local, regional, and national levels. Students participate in mentoring activities at the local level and in Washington, D.C.



EL PITIRRE

The pitirre is the symbol of ASPIRA.

A small, fragile tropical bird found in Puerto Rico, the pitirre is known for its agility and rapid flight and for its ability to outsmart, tire and defeat much larger birds.

ASPIRA believes that the pitirre is a fitting symbol for young Latinos. Aspirantes gain the confidence of the pitirre by acquiring knowledge and developing their leadership skills. They can then face and overcome seemingly overwhelming odds to become productive adults, returning to their communities the benefits of their skills and leadership.